CEREAL RUST BULLETIN

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Issued by:

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- Wheat leaf rust is widespread and at high levels throughout the southern U.S.
- Wheat stripe rust is present from Texas to Georgia.
- Oat crown rust is severe throughout southern Texas and Louisiana.
- Oat stem rust is light in Texas.

The winter-sown small grain crop is in good condition and is at normal crop development stage in most of the southern U.S.

Wheat stem rust. No wheat stem rust has been reported in the U.S. as of April 5.

Wheat leaf rust. In late March in southern, central and northern Texas, low to moderate levels of leaf rust infections were in most commercial wheat fields (Fig. 1). High severity levels of leaf rust were observed on susceptible cultivars in nursery plots. Leaf rust severities up to 80% were observed in nursery plots and trace-20% severity levels were found in wheat fields. In late March in southern Oklahoma, high severity levels of leaf rust were observed in fields, but levels were much lower in north central Oklahoma. In late March, overwintering leaf rust infections were observed on lower leaves in southern Nebraska.

Wheat leaf rust has been found in fields and plots in the southern soft red winter wheat area from southern Georgia to southern Arkansas. In late March in wheat plots at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 50% leaf rust severities were observed on susceptible cultivars. Some of the fields infected with rust have been sprayed for rust control in the southern U.S. Leaf rust will continue to increase rapidly with adequate moisture and warm weather, and will provide rust inoculum for the wheat growing areas further north.

Wheat stripe rust. In late March, wheat stripe rust infections were at light to moderate severities in wheat fields in southern and central Texas (Fig. 2). Stripe rust severities ranged from trace levels to 80% severity in plots. This year, stripe rust was found at more locations and the weather conditions were more favorable for rust development than last year in Texas. However, in late March, higher day and night temperatures had slowed stripe rust development in southern and central Texas plots and fields.

During the third week in March, moderate stripe rust was found throughout southern Oklahoma.

In late March, stripe rust was active in Louisiana and some fields were sprayed for rust control. In wheat plots in south central Louisiana, 80% stripe rust severities were recorded. Higher day and night temperatures during the last week of March slowed stripe rust development. In late March, stripe rust was severe in fields throughout Arkansas and fungicide application was recommended.

In mid-March, stripe rust overwintering foci were observed in plots in south central Georgia. Stripe rust had expanded outward from the foci and many of the cultivars in the nursery were infected.

Oat stem rust. In late March, 60% stem rust severities were observed in oat varietal plots in central Texas plots at Luling.

Oat crown rust. In late March, oat crown rust severities ranged from trace to 80% in plots and fields in southern and central Texas. Crown rust was so severe in a field in southern Texas that the plants were killed before heading. Crown rust is increasing throughout Texas and will provide inoculum for the oat growing areas further north.

In late March, 100% severities of crown rust were reported in Baton Rouge, Louisiana plots.

Buckthorn. Buds on buckthorn, the alternate host for oat crown rust, have not yet started to break dormancy in the buckthorn nursery at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Barley stem rust. As of April 5, no barley stem rust has been reported in the U.S.

Barley leaf rust. In late March, traces of barley leaf rust were found in southern Texas plots.

Stripe rust on barley. There have been no new reports of barley stripe rust since CRB #1.

Rye rusts. In late March, 60% rye leaf rust severities were observed on rye in central Texas plots.

Fig. 1. Leaf rust severities in wheat fields - April 5, 2005

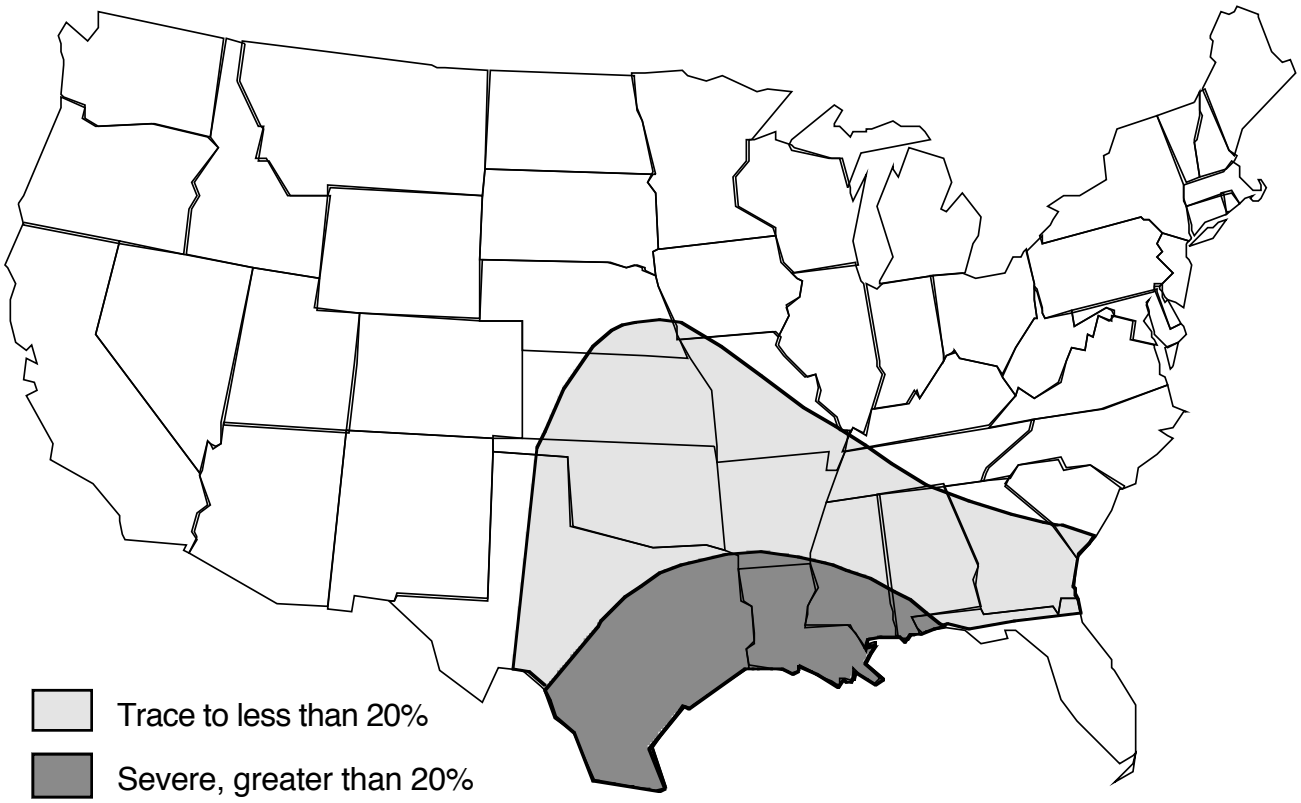

Fig. 2. Stripe rust severities in wheat fields - April 5, 2005